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FLOOR DEBATE

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that there are seven ethanol plants. We're looking at possibly a couple additional plants in the state and certainly this bill would be very valuable to them granting them some incentives. We've talked a little bit about the price of corn. The problem is we're just not using enough of the corn that we produce in Nebraska. We could be using more which could actually help then increase the price. Nationwide we only utilize about 7 percent of all of the corn produced in the United States for ethanol. In Nebraska, I'm happy to say that we near about 20 percent, I believe it's over 200 million bushels. People say, well, it doesn't do anything for the price of the corn, but I ask, what...where would we be if we didn't at least have the ethanol industry here in Nebraska? Senator Cunningham also spoke of a new vehicle that actually has been around for a number of years called the E-85. Again, why aren't we working to make our country energy independent? E-85 cars will operate on 85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: I think that this could certainly be one way that we all in Nebraska, yes, we talked about LB 75 trying to increase the usage of this fuel. And I think that as Nebraskans we need to strive and work very hard to increase not only the demand and I think through our education campaign that we've had in the last year or so we've taken a lot of things for granted, but we have increased that usage by nearly 11 percent. So I think we have a long way to go, but I'm certainly opposed to the bracket bill (sic, motion), stand in support of LB 536 as I think that this is certainly another tool that we could find...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR STUHR: ...very helpful to use. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Bruning, on the motion to bracket LB 536.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the bracket motion. And before I talk a little bit, I want to say well done, Senator Stuhr. That was